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Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and Auditor, of the Town of Litchfield, for the Year Ending March 1st, 1874

Litchfield (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
SELECTMEN, TREASURER, AND AUDITOR,
OF THE
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST, 1874.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Litchfield:—

Your Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor, for the municipal year ending March 1, 1874, present the following report, giving the sums received, and from what sources, to meet and pay the payments by the town; also showing for what purposes and to whom payments have been made:—

SCHOOLS.

• Sum voted by town March 10, 1873,	\$1,205 00
Balance on Selectmen's book Mar. 1, 1873,	488 79
State school fund for 1873,	332 54
State school mill tax for 1873,	551 31
	<hr/>
	\$2,577 64
Paid S. S. Committee and others,	1,988 92
	<hr/>
Amount of school funds undrawn March 1, 1874,	\$588 72

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Sum voted by town March 10, 1873,	\$900 00	
Overlayings,	108 47	
Delinquent highway taxes from 1872,	37 26	
	— —	\$1,045 73
Services of town officers allowed by Auditor,	\$254 42	
S. W. Springer, recording inventory and assessment,	5 00	
H. W. Jewett, lumber for bridges,	2 86	
D. Cunningham, labor on road, District No. 13, in 1872,	1 66	
S. Powers, labor on road, District No. 27,	5 33	
N. Dingley, Jr., & Co., books and stationery for town,	11 31	
James Carville, labor and lumber, District No. 39,	11 50	
Fred J. Slowman, labor on road, District No. 32,	3 16	
Wm. C. Smith, labor on road, Dist. No. 25,	3 00	
John G. Robie, lumber for bridge in District No. 7,	2 39	
James Ricker, labor on road, District No. 36,	7 33	
M. H. True and others, labor on road, District, No. 5,	21 00	
M. Tibbetts, labor on Jaquith bridge,	26 90	
H. W. Jewett, lumber for Jaquith bridge,	20 42	
Benj. Earl and others, labor on road, District No. 36,	26 50	
H. R. Morrill, printing Selectmen and Treasurer's report,	15 00	
Charles Jack and others, labor on road, District No. 26,	38 90	
Wm. Wilson and others, lumber and railing bridges, District No. 37,	10 00	
Joseph Woodbury, plank for road, District No. 5,	6 43	

N. Dingley, Jr. & Co., blank orders for town,	\$3 50
Josiah True, money paid out for expense in looking up the Elizabeth A. Ferrin case,	13 85
James Ricker and others, labor on road, District No. 39,	27 00
Joseph Sawyer and others, labor on road, District No. 13,	4 00
John Woodbury, money paid out for expenses in looking up the Elizabeth A. Ferrin case,	39 50
E. H. Baker, labor on road, District No. 32,	19 87
Hiram Haines, labor on road, Dist. No. 32,	16 40
M. H. True, labor and lumber on bridge District No. 5,	14 34
D. S. Springer, money paid out for expense in looking up the Caroline Howard case,	9 00
P. M. Fogler & Co., plank for road District No. 7,	9 51
Nath'l Dennis and others, labor on Buffee landing bridge,	30 50
D. S. Springer, plank for culverts and bridges,	5 50
Rufus Smith and others, labor and lumber on Buffee landing bridge,	25 25
Philip Larrabee and others, labor on road, District No. 34,	12 25
A. J. Goodwin, plank for bridges in District No. 5,	9 85
Arthur Berry, plank for Buffee landing bridge,	19 80
Arrington Douglass and others, labor on road, District No. 11,	26 67
Daniel Campbell, damage to wagon in road, District No. 26,	7 00
Josiah True, expenses and money paid as Selectman,	8 57

Rufus Smith, plank for road, District No. 17, in 1872,	\$8 40	
D. S. Springer, blanks, postage, and expenses as Selectman,	16 75	
S. Patten, plank for bridges and labor on road,	13 00	
John Patten, plank, and money paid for labor on road,	4 98	
Thomas Holmes, expenses as Treasurer,	7 33	
Abated in W. M. Hatten's tax bills for 1872,	57 37	
Abated in W. M. Hatten's tax bills for 1873,	9 10	
Abated in G. W. Sawyer's tax bills for 1871,	27 31	
Abated in G. W. Sawyer's delinquent highway tax bills for 1871,	4 03	
	<hr/>	\$954 11
Balance in favor of town,		<hr/> \$91 62

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Sum voted by town for support of poor,	\$700 00
Supplies over receipts for the year ending January 1, 1874,	\$108 81
Paid services of Overseer on Poor Farm, for the year ending Jan. 1, 1874,	242 50
Cost on the Poor Farm,	<hr/> \$351 31
Pauper bills off Farm :—	
Paid for support of Hannah Higgins,	\$40 00
Paid for support of Lydia Hanscomb,	40 00
Paid for support of Mrs. Kendall,	32 50
City of Gardiner for supplies furnished S. Potter,	3 16
Town of Chelsea for supplies furnished Sanford Goodwin,	13 50
Town of Belgrade, supplies furnished Caroline Howard in 1870,	27 74

Town of Milford, for supplies furnished Elizabeth A. Ferrin in 1871 and 1872,	\$320 00
Cyrus Kendrick, medical aid for Lydia Hanscomb,	3 50
Cost off the Poor Farm,	\$480 40
Cost on the Poor Farm,	351 31
Total cost of poor,	\$831 71
Balance against town,	\$131 71

STOCK AND PROPERTY ON TOWN POOR FARM,

As Estimated by the Overseers of the Poor, Feb. 27, 1874.

Stock on the farm,	\$334 00
13 tons of hay at \$12 50 per ton,	162 50
Provisions, &c.,	74 20
	\$570 70

NAMES AND AGES OF PAUPERS ON POOR FARM.

Mary Nevens,	aged 71 years.
William Jewell,	" 69 "
Julia Tibbetts,	" 52 "
Sanford Goodwin,	" 49 "
Alonzo Gatchell,	" 7 "

Gardiner Roberts and his wife were hired to take charge of the Poor Farm and the poor on it, one year at \$250. The year expires April 1st, 1874.

TOWN DEBT BEARING INTEREST.

Sum voted by town to pay interest on debt,	\$500 00
Paid interest on town debt,	158 10
Balance in favor of town,	\$341 90

RESOURCES.

To make the various payments for the town, the resources have been as follows :—

Balance on Selectmen's book March 1st, 1873,	\$2,323 62	
Assessed and committed to Collector and Treasurer,	2,208 47	
Received of Charles M. Slowman for sale of Fryer lot,	50 00	
Received of Charles M. Slowman one note for sale of Fryer lot,	175 00	
Received of Overseers of Poor Farm, receipts over supplies for the fourth quarter,	40 00	
Delinquent highway taxes from 1872,	37 26	
	<hr/>	\$4,834 35
Paid out :—		
Abatements, Roads, Bridges, Incidentals,	\$954 11	
Support of poor,	871 71	
Interest on town debt,	158 10	
	<hr/>	\$1,983 92
Balance on Selectmen's book March 1, 1874,	\$2,850 43	

D. S. SPRINGER,	} <i>Selectmen,</i>
JOSIAH TRUE,	
JOHN PATTEN,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>Litchfield.</i>

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following report shows the amount of money received and paid out during the municipal year ending March 1, 1874 ; also a statement of the town debt, and the amount due the town from several Collectors, &c.

Balance in Treasurer's hands March 1st, 1873,	\$191 74	
Received from Geo. W. Sawyer, Collector for 1871,	483 89	
Received from W. M. Hattin, Collector for 1872,	1,749 51	
Received from same, delinquent highway taxes returned,	12 59	
Received from same, Collector for 1873,	797 30	
Received from Selectmen by commitment for delinquent highway taxes received,	18 60	
Received from G. Roberts for receipts over supplies on poor farm, for quarter ending Jan. 1st, 1874,	40 00	
Received from State Treasurer for schools, for the year 1872,	187 39	
Received from same, school mill tax for 1873,	551 31	
Received from Selectmen, by commitment on sale of Fryer lot,	50 00	
	—————	\$4,082 33
Paid for support of schools,	\$1,956 74	
Paid on town debt,	145 50	
Paid for support of poor,	861 21	
Paid for incidental expenses,	792 05	
Cash in Treasurer's hands, Mar. 1, 1874,	326 83	
	—————	\$4,082 33

STATEMENT OF TOWN DEBT.

Outstanding notes and interest on same, to March 1, 1874,	Dr.	
		\$2,651 77
Due from Geo. W. Sawyer, Collector for 1871,	Cr.	
		\$59 40
Due from same, on account of delinquent highway taxes,		23 11
Due from Daniel W. Perry, Collector for 1869, on account of delinquent highway taxes,		23 88
Due from W. M. Hattin, Collector for 1872,		468 48
Due from same, Collector for 1873,		2,616 17
Due from same, for delinquent highway taxes,		50 17
Due from Chas. M. Slowman, note dated Feb. 23, 1874, for		175 00
		<hr/> \$3,416 21

All of which is respectfully submitted.

THOMAS HOLMES, *Treasurer.*

LITCHFIELD, March, 1874.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

Agreeable to the duties assigned, I have examined the books and accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer for the current year, and find them properly cast and vouched, and that they agree.

THOMAS HOLMES, *Auditor.*

LITCHFIELD, March 2, 1874.

E. L. Litchfield

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD,

For the Year ending March 1st, 1874.

GARDINER:

H. K. MORRELL & SON, PRINTERS, HOME JOURNAL OFFICE.

1874.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

To the Citizens of Litchfield:

Your Superintending School Committee submit their annual report, for the year ending March 1, 1874 :

CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

DISTRICT NO. 1.—A. P. SMITH, Agent.

Number of scholars, 64 ; amount of money, \$230.40.

Summer Term—Mrs. D. L. SMITH, teacher. Number attending, 33 ; average, 24 ; length of term, 55 days.

Mrs. SMITH is a teacher of large experience and pleasing address. We found the school pleasantly progressing. Order commendable. The scholars, most of whom were small, seemed interested and well pleased with their teacher, who was doing all in her power to make the school pleasant and profitable. We found charts and maps here, and, under Mrs. SMITH's care, were well employed.

Learning too late of the close of the school we were not able to make a second visit.

Winter term—ALBERT G. SMITH and D. L. SMITH, teachers. Number of scholars, 27 ; average, 23 ; term, 40 days.

At our first visit we found the teacher well at work and apparently interested ; scholars were orderly and attentive to their studies, and we could see no reason why it would not be a profitable term of school ; but from some cause or causes unknown to your Committee, the teacher resigned his charge during the third week of the term. Mr. D. L. SMITH was then employed to take charge of the school, which he did to the general acceptance of the district. Mr. SMITH is a teacher of large experience, having been long in the field, and one that has many times received the plaudit "well done" from many that have been placed under his

charge. On account of the condition of the roads, but few scholars were present at our closing examination, but enough to show that the teaching had been thorough and practical; the instruction given in mathematics was not wholly confined to text books, but generally to questions arising in every day life. Classes in geography were taught from maps furnished by the teacher. The order was very good, and the term one of profit to the district.

DISTRICT NO. 2.—DEXTER DANFORTH, Agent.

Number of scholars, 25; amount of money, \$115.

Summer Term—Miss M. A. DEARING, teacher. Number attending, 14; average, 11; length of term, 44 days.

This school still remains one of our backward class, and requires extra effort by all parties to bring it up to a proper standing and rank among the schools of the town. Miss DEARING, though young and without experience, did well, and many of the classes made marked progress, particularly the small classes in reading; and at the close we were well pleased with the condition of the school.

Winter Term—Miss M. A. DEARING, teacher. Number of scholars attending, 21; average, 12; length of term, 83 days.

Miss DEARING having been successful during the fall term, was employed to take charge of the winter term, and taught, we think, to the entire satisfaction of the district. This school, though small and backward, with honest, faithful teaching of the right kind, continued from term to term, can, in a few years, rank favorably with others in the town. The classes appeared to have been well drilled, and generally did well. The order was good.

DISTRICT NO. 3.—W. G. WEBBER, Agent.

Whole number, 36; amount of money, \$144.00.

Summer Term—AUGUSTA EDGECOMB, teacher. Number attending, 22; average, 18; length, 40 days.

We consider Miss E. one of our first-class teachers, as she is one of our very best English scholars. We found a good school here, well managed and very thoroughly taught. The town can not afford to let other towns call away our best teachers, and Agents should make haste to secure such work as can only be done by this class of faithful, thorough instructors. Not being informed of the close of this school till too late to make a second visit, we can not report

the final result, but have no doubt that it was satisfactory to all parties.

Winter Term—Miss EMILY SMILEY, teacher, Number of scholars attending, 24; average, 17; length of term, 70 days.

This was a successful term of school. Miss SMILEY sustaining her former reputation as a thorough, faithful and efficient teacher, the general appearance of the school at our last visit was good. A class of little ones, to whom oral instruction was given in arithmetic did themselves credit; we think they would be hard to beat. Other classes in this branch made commendable progress. One class in geography passed the best examination of any of whom your committee has knowledge. The house was clean and neat, and order good. We consider Miss Smiley one of our best teachers.

DISTRICT NO. 4.—ALVIN HUNTINGTON, Agent.

Number of scholars, 33; amount of money, \$132.00.

Summer Term—Miss AROLINE CURTIS, teacher. Number attending, 21; average, 18; length of term, 33 days.

Miss CURTIS was young, inexperienced, uneasy in her manner, evincing too much unsuccessful effort in management, consequently the school was uneasy and the deportment not what we could desire; the teaching not of that thorough and critical kind we like, nor was it such as this school requires to develop and make good scholars. Not knowing of the close of this school no examination was made.

Winter Term—ELISHA BAKER, teacher. Number of scholars attending, 25; average, 20; length of term, 65 days.

Mr. BAKER is an old teacher, a good manager, and we found his work progressing finely, school well organized and promising success. All branches were well cared for, writing, reading and spelling especially. We left this school feeling that success was sure. At our closing visit we found that good improvement had been made in the several branches pursued, and our expectations at the commencement fully realized at the close.

DISTRICT NO. 5.—W. OTIS, Agent.

Whole number, 24; amount of money, \$111.00.

Summer Term—Miss MARY TOOTHAKER, teacher. Number attending, 15; average, 12; length of term 35 days.

Miss T. was well qualified for her task, and commenced her labors here an inexperienced teacher. We were much pleased with the appearance of this little school of small children, and with the pleasant, though firm, manner in which the teacher controlled her charge. Classes were faithfully and thoroughly taught. Pupils seemed interested and were quiet and orderly in their deportment. We consider this one of our good schools.

Winter Term—C. C. RICHMOND, teacher. Number attending, 13; average, 8; length 40 days.

This was Mr. R.'s first effort here as a teacher. At our first visit the school was not in proper condition for good work. There seemed a lack of interest on the part of both scholars and teacher, and classes were not as active as we wish to find in a real good school. We think a teacher should be lively, earnest, inspiring his pupils with interest and earnestness in their work. Though Mr. RICHMOND is a good scholar and faithful in his efforts, more energy would conduce largely to his success. Owing to severe storms no closing examination of this school was made.

DISTRICT NO. 6.—WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM, Agent.

Number of scholars, 25; amount of money, \$110.

Summer Term—Miss MARY A. SAWYER, teacher. Number attending, 22; average, 20; length of term 30 days.

Miss SAWYER came into this school with a full determination to do the best thing for the children. At our opening visit we found all things working together for good, and we expected a successful term of school and at the close we were not disappointed. Classes had made good improvement, and the little ones had done especially well.

Winter Term—WILBER BERRY, teacher. Number attending, 18; average, 16; length of term, 45 days.

The Agent was fortunate in securing the services of so faithful and thorough a teacher. Mr. B. was engaged for this school for the reason he had taught here the winter before, and had given such satisfaction as to warrant his employment for this term, and he began his work with strong promise of success. As we were unable to make a closing visit, your committee doubt not that the promise of success was fully realized.

DISTRICT NO. 7.—DANIEL BERRY, Agent.

Whole number, 33 ; amount of money, \$132.

Summer Term—Miss EMILY SMILEY, teacher. Number attending, 19 ; average, 17 ; length, 44 days.

Miss SMILEY has won a reputation, and fully sustained that good character in this school, which she has worked so earnestly and so successfully to build. Her teaching was good in the true sense of the term, and the school was such as to give the best satisfaction to all parties. We were well pleased with the result.

Winter Term—FRANK BUKER, teacher. Number of scholars attending, 24 ; average, 23 ; length of term, 50 days.

This is the home of Mr. BUKER, and it is not too much to say that among the many good teachers that have taught here, and under whose instruction much improvement had been accomplished, none, we think, have surpassed him in the amount of labor performed, or general improvement. Classes in the various studies pursued were thoroughly drilled and gave evidence of much hard study. The order was good. We commend Mr. B. to the favorable consideration of future Agents. Quite a large number of the parents were present at the closing examination, thus showing that they are interested in educational matters, and especially in the welfare of their children at school.

DISTRICT NO. 8.—JOHN L. ALLEN, Agent.

Whole number, 3 ; amount of money, \$12.

Only one term for the year—Miss ACHRO CURTIS, teacher. Whole number, 13 ; average, 9 ; length, 30 days.

This little school was made up of odds and ends, and was managed with good judgment, taught correctly and critically. Classes were made acquainted with the reason of every operation. The deportment of the school was all that could be required, and we felt at the close that this was one of our best schools. We would cheerfully recommend Miss C. to the favorable notice of future Agents.

DISTRICT NO. 9.—WM. STEVENS, Agent.

Number of scholars, 56 ; Amount of money, \$201.60.

Summer Term—Miss L. C. SMITH, teacher. Number attending, 21 ; average, 15 ; length of term, 50 days.

This was one of our very best schools and Miss SMITH one of our very best teachers. No school in town was

fully understood. One class of beginners in this branch deserves special notice. The advancement in other branches was equally as good. This term was one of the most successful in town, and your Committee do not hesitate in giving Mr. Taylor a position in the front rank of teachers.

DISTRICT NO. 13.—W. H. DUSTIN, Agent.

Number of scholars, 26; Amount of money, \$114.

Summer Term—Miss SMILEY, teacher. Number attending, 16; average, 14; length of term, 35 days.

The Agent was very fortunate in his selection of both Summer and Winter teachers. Miss S., of whom we have had occasion to speak several times in this report, fully sustained her former good reputation. Taught a good school, giving satisfaction to all interested in the welfare of the scholars.

Winter Term—HENRY TAYLOR, teacher. Whole number, 17; average, 14; length, 45 days.

We do not believe a better choice could have been made of a teacher for this term. Mr. T. has placed himself in the very front rank of teachers in Litchfield. No school in town received more critical and useful instruction. No one in town made better use of the instruction received or made more progress in the right direction. We believe in consideration of all the circumstances, this little school of fifteen scholars, can honestly claim the championship of our town in all that goes to make a smart school, and this has come about by faithfulness on part of parents and agent in securing the right sort of teaching. We always meet many friends of education here on examination day.

DISTRICT NO. 14.—J. G. PREBLE, Agent.

Whole number of scholars, 33; amount of money, \$132.

No summer school. Winter Term—A. T. STINSON and Miss ABBIE F. PREBLE, teachers. Number of scholars attending, 12; average, 11; length of term, 70 days.

This school is small and backward, but by the untiring energy and persistent efforts of the teacher, the scholars were enabled at the closing examination to give unmistakable evidence that the term had been one of profit to them. The improvement in one class of little ones in reading was very good, as well as classes in other branches. The order in this school was perfect, and the final results very satisfactory to your committee, and we doubt not to the district. On account of professional engagement Mr. Stinson was

obliged to close his labors with the school after teaching ten weeks, much to the regret of the district.

Miss ABBIE F. PREBLE was then employed to continue the term. After teaching ten days, charges were preferred against her, which your committee proceeded to investigate after due notice having been given to the parties. After a careful and impartial hearing, your committee were unanimous in the opinion that the charges were not sustained, and the teacher was allowed to go on with the school, with what success we have no knowledge at this time of writing.

DISTRICT NO. 15.—M. W. ADAMS, Agent.

Number of scholars, 40; amount of money \$160.00.

Summer Term.—Miss EMMA F. SPARKS, teacher. Number attending, 15; average, 10; length of term, 40 days.

This little school was made up mostly of small scholars, and Miss S. was young and without experience as a teacher. At our first visit though all were very well set to work, there was some uneasiness as was natural in a school of this character. Miss S. was doing her work faithfully and well. At our closing visit the school was much quieter and we noticed some of the best readers in town here. Many of the little ones had made good progress, and one class had been taught many interesting and useful things which they will remember long.

Winter Term.—Miss ALICE WOODMAN, teacher. Number of scholars attending, 28; average, 23; length of term, 55 days.

At our first visit we found Miss Woodman well interested in her work, and laboring to the best of her ability to interest her pupils. Possessed with a pleasant disposition and a good degree of patience, she succeeded in gaining the love of her scholars, especially the small ones, of which this school is largely composed. At our closing examination we found that very fair progress had been made in many of the studies pursued, especially in reading. The advancement in this was very good. Classes in Arithmetic were a little dull in recitation, and not so thoroughly drilled in principles as we should have liked, yet under the circumstances they did fairly. The order was fair, considering the large number of small scholars present.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. S. H. ROGERS,
ORAMANDEL SMITH,
R. J. D. LARRABEE.

NOTICE TO AGENTS AND TEACHERS.

The Committee will be in session for the examination of teachers for the summer schools, at Litchfield Academy, May 30th, at 1 o'clock P. M. Also, at the school house in District No. 6, on Saturday, Nov. 7th, also at Litchfield Academy, Nov. 28th, at 1 o'clock each day, for the examination of teachers for the winter schools.